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STATINTL

## How Many Will Speak Up For Powers And Freedom?

THE GLOBAL WAR of words has flamed and thundered over the downing of the American spy plane in Russia, one important item seems to have been forgotten.

That item: Francis G. Powers, the pilot of the unfortunate U-2.

A month has passed since the Russians announced that Powers had been downed and captured. In that time no American representative has been permitted to see him. It is not known whether he is held, what his physical condition is—or even if he is alive.

Powers' father, a cobbler in Norton, Va., had planned to go to Russia soon to attempt to see his son. But he announced yesterday that he had canceled the trip for the present, after receiving "outside advice." Presumably the advice came from some official source in Washington.

IF POWERS is alive, it can be assumed that the Russians will place him on trial at a time which best suits their propaganda schemes. Presumably the trial would be a public spectacle, carefully arranged to depict Powers as the hireling of Washington warmongers who recklessly send aerial invaders across the borders of "peace-loving" nations.

Now what was exactly that Powers did?

He piloted an unarmed plane over Russia to take photographs of missile bases and other military installations. He was a civilian, officially employed by the Lockheed Aircraft Company, the manufacturer of the U-2 snooper plane, and was working for the Central

The Russians say the 30-year-old Powers resigned his Air Force captaincy to fly the U-2 for a salary of \$30,000 a year. We don't know what his pay was but undoubtedly it was higher than that of an Air Force pilot because of the great personal danger involved.

But it would surely require more than the glitter of \$2500 a month (before taxes) to lure a happily-married,

well-established Air Force officer to volunteer for the hazardous duty of spying over Russia, where death rode as co-pilot on every mission.

A man would have to love adventure, yes. But he would have to love his country more. The CIA would not entrust so delicate and dangerous a task to a soldier-of-fortune; it would make certain that its man was a patriot, and he well understood that the security not only of his own country but of all the free world might hang upon the success of his work.

Powers, then, was a jet-age Nathan Hale, slipping past the enemy's outposts at 500 miles an hour and scanning its defenses through electronic eyes at 80,000 feet.

Once captured, he became as vulnerable as Hale in the hands of the British. He is subject to execution.

THE UNITED STATES and its allies owe a great debt to Powers and his brave fellows who dared Russian vengeance for four years to bring out military information obtainable in no other way. Their collective feat has contributed immeasurably to the defense of the free world.

Now the free world, we think, ought to come to the defense of Francis Powers.

When the Rosenbergs, American citizens, were sentenced to death for the treasonable offense of slipping our atomic secrets to the Russians, a great outcry for leniency was raised. Committees To Save The Rosenbergs popped up

All over the world. Communists inspired the campaign, of course, but it enlisted the support of many well-meaning but soft-headed people everywhere.

We propose, therefore, that a Committee for Justice to Francis Powers be organized wherever free men live. These committees ought to collect millions of signatures on petitions directed to Khrushchev—not begging mercy for Powers as a criminal but demanding honorable treatment of him as a soldier who risked his own life and liberty to make those of other men more secure.

Such a campaign might or might not save Francis Powers. But it would, at least, demonstrate how many people appreciate the difference between a traitor who serves tyranny and a patriot who defends freedom.



Powers